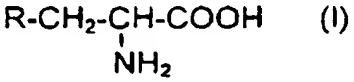
CLAIMS

22. Method for detecting and identifying and/or quantifying an enzymatic activity such as deaminase activity of a microorganism, according to which an inoculum which is capable of containing a microorganism with a deaminase activity is brought into contact with a culture medium for microorganisms,

characterized in that the culture medium comprises at least one detection agent for demonstrating, by forming a colored product with a revealing agent, an enzymatic activity such as deaminase activity,

said detection agent being an L-amino acid of following general formula (I):



(I)

in which:

- R represents a cyclic amino acid radical, substituted with 1 to 3 groups X, which are identical or different,
- X represents a group which limits the diffusion of the α-keto acid produced by the deamination of the cyclic amino acid.

23. Method according to claim 22, characterized in that X is chosen from hydrophobic groups.

24. Method according to claim 23, characterized in that X is chosen from naphthalene-sulfonyl, tosyl-sulfonyl and mesitylene-sulfonyl.

25. Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the revealing agent is a cation salt.

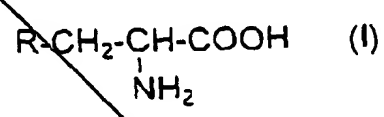
26. Method according to claim 22, characterized in that the revealing agent is added to the culture medium at the same time as the detection agent.

27. Method according to claim 21, characterized in that the revealing agent is added to the culture medium after culturing the microorganisms.

28. Method according to claim 21, characterized in that the microorganisms which are detected and identified and/or quantified by enzymatic activity such as deaminase activity belong to the group *Proteus*.

29. Method according to claim 21, characterized in that at least one other detection agent for demonstrating, by forming a colored or fluorescent product, an enzymatic activity which is different from that demonstrated by the compound of general formula (I) is also added to said culture medium.

30. Compound having the following general formula (I):



(I)

in which:

- R represents a cyclic amino acid radical, substituted with 1 to 3 groups X, which are identical or different,
- X represents a group which limits the diffusion of the α-keto acid produced by the deamination of the cyclic amino acid,

with the exception of the compounds N-im-benzyl-L-histidine, 1- and 3-methyl-L-histidine, O-benzyl-L-tyrosine, O-carboxybenzoyl-L-tyrosine, O-dansyl-L-tyrosine, O-methyl-L-tyrosine and 1-, 4-, 5-, 6- and 7-methyl-L-tryptophan.

31. Compound according to claim 30, characterized in that X is chosen from hydrophobic groups.

32. Compound according to claim 30, characterized in that X is chosen from naphthalene-sulfonyl, tosyl-sulfonyl and mesitylene-sulfonyl.

33. Compound according to claim 31, characterized in that it is O-(2-naphthalene-sulfonyl)-tyrosine.

34. Compound according to claim 31, characterized in that it is 4-O-toluene-sulfonyl-L-tyrosine.

35. Compound according to claim 31, characterized in that it is N-toluene-sulfonyl-L-histidine.

36. Method for preparing the compounds according to claim 30, comprising the following steps:

(a) formylation of the residue R,

(b) addition of a salt of X onto the residue R formylated according to (a),

(c) deformylation of the residue R substituted according to (b).

37. Culture medium for microorganisms, comprising, besides the ingredients required for culturing said microorganisms, at least one compound according to claim 30, as a detection agent.

38. Culture medium according to claim 37, characterized in that the weight concentration of the detection agent(s) is between 0.025 and 5 g/l of culture medium.

39. Culture medium according to claim 37, characterized in that [lacuna] weight concentration of the detection agent(s) is between 0.1 and 2 g/l, preferably between 0.3 and 0.6 g/l.

40. Culture medium according to claim 37, characterized in that it also comprises a revealing agent, preferably a cation salt, for example ammoniacal iron citrate.

41. Culture medium according to claim 37, characterized in that it is in a gelled form.

42. Culture medium according to claim 37, characterized in that it also comprises at least one other detection agent for demonstrating, by forming a colored or fluorescent product, an enzymatic activity which is different from that demonstrated by the compound of general formula (I).